

opportunity to join the National Bone Marrow Registry at various retail outlets across the country. This project will also feature voter registration, providing a user friendly environment for young people to become both registered voters and potential bone marrow donors.

The Choice is Yours campaign exemplifies what can be accomplished when the for-profit and nonprofit sectors, combine their resources to promote civic responsibility. Most importantly, programs of this nature help save lives. The Choice is Yours campaign demonstrates the commitment by the Bertelsmann Music Group and the National Bone Marrow Donor Program, to provide leadership and heighten awareness on these important issues that strongly impact the African-American community.

I am very pleased to recognize this campaign that will be inaugurated at the world's famous Apollo Theater in my district, the 15th Congressional District in the State of New York on February 1, 1996.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE WARD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, on January 24, 1996, I was unavoidably detained due to my travel with President Clinton to my district, and missed one rollcall vote. I would like the record to show that had I been present for rollcall vote No. 16, on S. 1124, the Defense authorization for fiscal year 1996, I would have voted "yes."

STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, last Tuesday evening we heard the President of the United States eloquently proclaim to the American people that the "era of big government is over," that "big government does not have all the answers," that "there is not a program for every problem," and how "we need a smaller, less bureaucratic government in Washington."

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree with the President more, and I venture the vast majority of working men and women in my district agree with him as well. But at the same time the President is preaching small Government, the Food and Drug Administration is proceeding in the opposite direction.

There are probably few Federal agencies which personify better than the FDA the inherent dangers of the kind of large, unwieldy, arrogant, and power-hungry bureaucracies which characterize the big Government condemned last night by the President.

By its estimates, the Food and Drug Administration regulates approximately 25 cents out of every dollar spent by Americans on products. Food and Drug Administration rules currently occupy approximately 4,270 pages of the Code of Federal Regulations.

But despite, or maybe as a result of, this wide reach, the agency had failed miserably in

carrying out its core mission of approving promptly and efficiently new medical technologies, devices and pharmaceuticals. As a result, costs of these products have propelled skyward; the research and manufacture of these products has been chased overseas, and absurd scarcities have been created whereby literally hundreds of potentially life-saving technologies and medicines are widely available abroad, but not here in America.

For example, during the last fiscal year, it took an average of 7 months for the FDA to review so-called 510K applications for low-risk medical devices—those which may duplicate devices already in the market. This is almost three times longer than it took in 1989 and well beyond the agency's statutory requirement of 90 days. The FDA's review of more complicated products, such as implants and those which may pose serious risks in the event of failure (so-called Class III devices) now takes an average of three years, despite the fact that the law requires this review process to be completed within 180 days.

In addition, the amount of time it takes to move a drug from laboratory to market has doubled since 1962 (from an average of 6 years then, to 12 years now). As approval time for drugs has lengthened, the costs pharmaceutical firms incur bringing a drug to market have similarly increased. In the 1970's, it cost approximately \$50 million and took 5 to 7 years to develop a new drug. By the 1980's, the cost had increased to an average of \$231 million. By the early 1990's, the cost had increased to about \$369 million. Is it any wonder, then, that the cost to American consumers of prescription drugs has increased by 137 percent?

But, instead of seeking ways to do a better job at the tasks to which it is already assigned, the FDA now proposes, in 140 pages of the Federal Register, to expand its jurisdiction to include control over tobacco, its sales, its distribution, its advertising and promotion.

This past Friday, the Department of Health and Human Services published its final rule for implementation of provisions of the Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Health Administration Reorganization Act of 1992 restricting Federal assistance to States which fail to enact and enforce statutes prohibiting tobacco sales to minors, conduct random inspections, and meet certain reporting obligations.

Although almost 2 years and 5 months have passed since the agency published its preliminary regulations, last week's action comes at an opportune time; specifically in the middle of a debate as to what role, if any, the FDA should have in regulating tobacco. If it seems somewhat inconsistent for HHS to be issuing regulations imposing on the States the responsibility for dealing with underage tobacco use at the same time the FDA is attempting to grab authority to manage this issue from the Federal level, that is because it is inconsistent.

Beyond this inconsistency, as a matter of practicality and efficiency, it makes little sense for the FDA to spend its time attempting to assume the very expensive, far-reaching, and time consuming responsibilities entailed in managing underage tobacco use at a time when the agency has proven itself incapable of performing adequately its core mission of approving medical devices and drugs.

I agree with the goal of preventing underage tobacco use. But if the FDA cannot currently perform its core missions, what reason is

there to believe it can effectively prevent underage tobacco use? Further diluting FDA's energies to take on a task which is outside its statutory jurisdiction will not prevent teenagers from smoking. But it will serve to further detract the agency from its primary mission of approving promptly safe new medicines and medical devices.

That is why the public interest will best be served by the FDA dropping its unauthorized campaign against tobacco and refocusing its efforts to fulfill its core mission while the States and the Federal Government work together to assure efficient and effective implementation of the ADAMHA Reorganization Act of 1992.

APPEASEMENT DOES NOT WORK: NATO MUST EXPAND

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I insert for the RECORD the following three quotes which clearly display the flaccidity, moral bankruptcy, and ahistorical nature of current Western policy toward Central Europe:

I want to make it clear that I don't see this as a great ambition of NATO to get bigger. What of NATO's future? There can be no security without taking Russia into account.—British Defense Minister Michael Portillo, 1/23/96.

There is basically no difference between what he (Portillo) said and what we are saying.—U.S. State Dept. Official, 1/23/96.

Today, out of fear of Russia, Western countries are no longer prepared to enlarge NATO. But by hesitating, they have stirred Russia's interest in this region. The longer these hesitations last, the more Russia's ambitions increase because it feels that this area is empty. If the West is not careful, I think that we can still expect many troubles.—Czech President Vaclav Havel, 1/23/96.

Mr. Speaker, the sellouts of Munich, Yalta, and detente are being repeated as we speak. We are once again reaching over the heads of smaller Central European countries to do a deal with a larger aggressor. It is important to remember that Munich, Yalta, and detente were not just immoral sellouts, they were huge intellectual failures which led to tragedies of incalculable proportions.

Mr. Speaker, there is no better source than Vaclav Havel when it comes to Russian behavior or the danger of leaving a vacuum in Central Europe, and we should heed his words. We need to expand NATO—now.

JOHN F. HENNING, UNIONIST OF THE YEAR

HON. RONALD V. DELLUMS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 25, 1996

Mr. DELLUMS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share with my colleagues the illustrious public career of my friend John F. Henning, the executive secretary-treasurer of the California Labor Federation of the AFL-CIO. This coming February, Jack will be honored by the men